

TALK OF FOREIGN OFFICE SPOKESMAN ON
TIENTSIN AIR-RAID (July 30, 1937)

The Japanese air force in Tientsin bombed Chinese positions in and about the city at 2:30 p.m. yesterday. Prior to taking the action the following statement was issued by Consul-General Mr. Horiuchi.

"Since last night the Chinese Force Preservation Corps as well as the regulars with bases at the Municipal Office, the Bureau of Public Safety, Peining Park in Tientsin and Palitai in the vicinity of the city, continuously bombarded the Japanese Concession. To meet the exigency, the Japanese force had no other choice except bombing, in self-defence, those Chinese bases of attack. The Japanese Army has not the slightest intention of giving any harm to the Chinese people themselves. Under the Boxer Protocol, the Chinese regulars are prohibited to enter within 20 Chinese li of the city of Tientsin.

Simultaneously with the bombing of other Chinese bases of attack against the Japanese Concession in Tientsin, our air force bombed the head office building of the Peining Railway and the Nankai University. In this case, also the Japanese action was entirely forced by the ruthless bombarding by the Chinese forces against the Japanese Concession where thousands of Japanese and Chinese non-combatants as well as refugees from other districts live.

The Nankai University had been occupied by the Chinese Independent 26th Brigade who had come from the direction of Palitai and converted that institution of learning into a base of abominable offence against the peaceful residents of the Concession. As to the Peining Railway Head Office, it had been occupied

by the troops of the 38th Division who had driven out all employees of the office. The Chinese used these edifices as bases of bombardment aimed particularly at the Concession, which could be stopped only by instant bombing in order to save the lives and propert^{ies} of the people. The Japanese action was therefore a perfectly self-defensive measure taken in an extreme emergency.

C E R T I F I C A T E

Statement of Source and Authenticity

I, HA.YASHI, Kaoru, Chief of the Archives Section Japanese Foreign Office, hereby certify that the document hereto attached in English consisting of 2 pages and entitled "Talk of Foreign Office Spokesman on Tientsin Air-Paid (July 30, 1937)" is an exact and true copy of an official document of the Japanese Foreign Office.

Certified at Tokyo.

on this 8th day of April, 1947.

(signed) K. HA.YASHI
Signature of Official

Witness: (signed) K. URABE